

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. The Present Amendments

The amendments herein add no new matter.

The amendment to the Title conforms the Title to the invention as claimed. The amendment to the government rights statement conforms the statement to the language required by 37 C.F.R. § 401.14(f)(4). The amendment to the abstract removes overly legalistic language, as requested by the Examiner.

II. The Office Action

The Office Action objects to the specification on several grounds. Applicants respond as set forth below.

A. Objection to the Oath

The Action objects to the oath or declaration on the ground that it does not identify the city and state or country of residence of each inventor. The Action indicates that the information can be set forth on an application data sheet (ADS).

As the Action correctly notes, the residence address for an inventor can be provided on an ADS. Applicants respectfully note that an ADS showing the residence of each inventor was duly submitted on October 18, 2001, under cover of a Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(e)(2) to accord the application its May 29, 2001 filing date. Attached as evidence thereof is a copy of a return postcard showing receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) mailroom of the ADS. The October 18, 2001, filing also transmitted executed Declarations showing the country of citizenship of each inventor. Receipt of the Declaration by the PTO mailroom is also evidenced by the enclosed copy of the return postcard. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the Declaration and ADS filed with the October 18, 2001, filing are enclosed.

The objection in the present Action does not acknowledge the Declaration and ADS filed in October 2001. Accordingly, the present objection is believed to rest, incorrectly,

on the belief that the required information has not been submitted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection in light of the information contained set forth above.

B. Objection to Title

The Title was objected to as not aptly descriptive. The Title has been amended to conform to the claims as amended. As amended, the Title is believed to be aptly descriptive of the invention.

C. Objection to Abstract

The Abstract is objected to because of legal phraseology. The Abstract has been amended to be less legalistic. As amended, the Abstract is believed to be free of the rejection. Applicants respectfully note for the record that the amendment is merely to remove the objected-to legalism of the language of the abstract and that the amendments are not intended to affect the scope of the invention as claimed in any way.

D. Objection to Brief Description of the Drawings

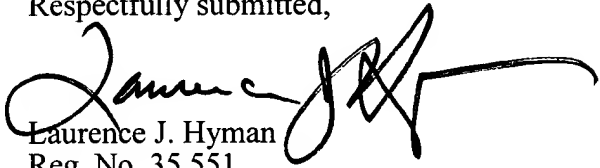
The Brief Description of the Drawings is objected to as not containing a description of Figures 2A-C. The Description of the Figures has been amended to refer specifically to each of the Figures. As amended, the Description is believed to be free of the objection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments: Return postcard from October 2001 filing
Declaration and ADS submitted October 2001

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